Spreading Christmas Goodwill

Once again the Robert Townson High School community has been overwhelmingly generous in providing donations for the St Vincent de Paul Christmas appeal. Students donated groceries for hampers and teachers donated food and new children’s clothing for less fortunate families in the Macathur area.

Year 11 students Brianna Browning, Emily Stack, Kittiya Thirakul, Chloe Robinson, Zasha-Marie Welfare and Monique Alguerro gave generously of their time to help collect and wrap the donations and add their own creative flair to create beautifully presented gifts.

Every year school community helps to provide a little more Christmas cheer to the wider Macarthur community.
This last term has again been one of celebration. Apart from the many awards and recognitions handed out at our various presentation and awards celebrations, several of our students, Kelly Stewart Keys, Jessica Fryer, Wiliam Mapapalangi, Baily McParland and Alexander Kuzela have been very successful in both academic and sporting awards.

Next year our sport program is again changing as we respond to suggestions about our efforts over the last two years. Please see the information within and also posted on our school website for more detail.

By the time this Newsletter is posted the year 12 students will have received their results. For those who got the marks they desired congratulations. For those who may be unhappy please do not hesitate to speak to our staff and careers teacher for advice on your future career directions. Please remember a test does not define who we are. It simply gives one piece of information at one instance of time.

School planning for the next three years has consumed our time this term. We have been trying to design our school to better meet the needs of the students and the community. We are getting very close and I hope to have an overview of that work in our first newsletter of 2015.

In this our final Newsletter for the year I wish to than the staff, parents and students for their best efforts over the year. Mr Tse and Mr Reithmuller will be leaving us at the end of the year and as they transition to new workplaces or new endeavours we wish them every success.

Along with Mrs Fuller I also wish each of you a safe and happy Christmas. I look forward to working with all of your children and you in 2015.

As the year draws to a close, I would like to thank the students, staff and parents for warmly welcoming me into the Robert Townson High School community. Even though I commenced only a short time ago in the role of Relieving Principal each Monday, I have been able to work with many of you to build productive relationships at our school. I had the pleasure of attending the end of year formal assembly and I was particularly impressed with the many award winners who have demonstrated a strong commitment to their learning throughout the year. I also attended the end of year presentation night and I was equally impressed with the quality of our performers who are a credit to themselves and their teachers. I am now looking forward to spending more time with the teachers at the first Staff Development Day at the end of term, then working in partnership with you in 2015. I would like to take this opportunity to wish all the students, staff and parents all the very best for a happy and safe holiday over the summer months. May you all enjoy a well-deserved holiday and a very relaxing break!
Deputy Principal’s Message (Yr 8, 10, 12)

Let us start this final newsletter article by thanking all the parents for their support during 2014. A positive year has seen the development of our Learning Engagement Centre as well a student involvement in a variety of programs from public speaking, leadership, sport, learning opportunities and charitable support.

Personally, the enjoyment I received from teaching my year 9 mathematics class has been outstanding. They have shown an interest and development in their skill levels and I am proud of their growth. This is just a snapshot of learning relationships occurring in classes around the school.

I thank the teaching staff of the school. They have supported my decisions and continue their professional approach to teaching and learning. I look forward to 2015 my final year of teaching.

I expect to work closely with the year 12 with the particular support of Caitlin Ramondetta and Luke Blayden, our school captains and vice captains Bailey Dymitriw and Webb Neggo (who will continue to supply me with my world class jokes!)

Deputy Principal’s Message (Yr 7, 9,)

We certainly have some talented staff on our team at Robert Townson High School. One of the staff to receive recognition for their contribution to education and hard work is Mrs Cheryl Collins who is the Senior Administration Officer at the school. Cheryl received the NSW Public Schools Award for Excellence in the category of School Administrative and Support Staff after being nominated by the school. Her long and distinguished career with DEC was recognised in a ceremony at Sydney Town Hall on Tuesday November 4th 2014 where she received the award. Congratulations to Cheryl and her hard working team at the school.
The first Robert Townson High chess championship has been a huge success. Twenty students from year seven to year twelve took part and showed their expertise in the strategies of the game. After two weeks of recess and lunch competition the field was narrowed down to three finalists: Alvin Bornay, Jamal El-Dhabi and Chris Megaly. In a play off each student played the other resulting in the final two being Chris Megaly and Alvin Bornay. It was tense final with the final champion being Chris Megaly.
School Sport Procedures 2015
We are currently planning significant changes to our current school sport procedures. These changes will take affect from the beginning of Term 1, 2015. Please refer to ‘Robert Townson High School - Sports Calendar 2015’ for a blueprint of our school sports dates for 2015.

Please read the following information carefully so you are aware of how these changes will affect your child.

For students in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 (2015):

School sport for these grades will be every Monday afternoons during periods 5 and 6. These students will be the most affected by the changes to our sports program.

These years will have the option of choosing either a House Sport or a Recreational (Rec) Sport. Each student will remain in their selected sport for the entire term. There will be four rounds of sport selections each year.

House Sport will involve students either staying at school or walking (as a group, with their sport teacher) to local venues such as Raby Fields. Please note there is no cost associated with a majority of our House Sports.

Recreational Sport requires students to travel on a bus each week to their appropriate sport venue. As sport venues charge different rates for their facilities, the costs associated with each Rec Sport will vary.

If a student chooses to participate in Recreational Sport, the entire cost of the term must be paid in full to the front office with accompanying permission note prior to the commencement of each sporting term.

Note: recreational sport selection will be on a ‘first in first served’ basis.

The reason for this is to ensure that the school is able to cover the costs associated with these venues, as well as covering the considerable costs of the buses. Please refer to ‘Recreational Sports Cost for 2015’ for the associated cost of recreational sport for 2015.

By selecting a Recreational Sport, a student is securing their spot at the venue and on the bus. The school is accountable for meeting this cost, therefore refunds will not be granted if: a student changes their mind, is removed from that sport due to their own behaviour, is absent on sport day, etc. The only exception will be students who acquire long term injuries that prevent them from participating in that sport. No IOU’s will be permitted.

If a student wishes to participate in the same sport each term, they are more than welcome to – provided they meet the following criteria:

- The behaviour of the student must remain exemplary. Repeated incidents of misbehaviour, truancy, etc. will render that student ineligible to participate in recreational sport for the remainder of the year.
- Students must be in full sports uniform.
- Recreational sports cost MUST be paid for in full, prior to the commencement of the sporting term.

Any student who misbehaves at sport or who truants will spend the following week in sports detention. Students out of uniform will spend that afternoon in sports detention. Persistent, serious misbehaviour will be dealt with according to normal school procedure.
For students in Year 11 (2015):
Their compulsory sports component will take place every Tuesday during period 5 for the first three terms. Every student will remain at school and participate in a smorgasbord of activities on our school oval, in the school hall and/or basketball courts. Each student will be required to get changed into their full sports uniform (alternate change of clothing is NOT permitted) in order to participate. Students who do not get changed will go to sports detention for the duration of the period. Attendance will be recorded each week and issues of truancy will be dealt with according to normal school procedure.

For students in Year 12 (2015):
School sport is NOT a component of the Year 12 curriculum. These students will not participate in any form of school sport.

An Overview of School Sport – 2015 and Beyond
2015 sees a return to House and Recreational (Rec) Sport for Robert Townson High School. The reason for this change is to increase the variety of sport choices for students, cater for individual student needs as well as encouraging active participation in regular physical activity.
For students in Years 7 through to 10, sport will take place every Monday afternoon during periods 5 and 6. Sport selections will occur at the commencement of term 1, and two weeks prior to the end of each subsequent term. Students will remain in their chosen sport for the duration of that term.

Recreational (Rec) Sport:
Recreational sports that will be offered for 2015 are as follows:
- Ten Pin Bowling, venue - Campbelltown City Bowls
- Ice Skating, venue - Liverpool Catholic Club
- Laser Skirmish, venue - Kingpin Bowling Macarthur Square
- Indoor Trampoline, venue - Flip Out Campbelltown
- Indoor Soccer, venue - Campbelltown Indoor Soccer Arena
- Indoor Skating, venue - Korrupt Indoor Skate Park

Please refer to ‘Recreational Sports Cost for 2015’ for the associated cost of recreational sport for 2015. Parents and students please note, that some recreational sports are only offered during certain school terms. Students wishing to participate in Rec Sport will be required to pay their bus and venue money in full at the start of each term. IOU’s will not be accepted, and refunds will only be issued in the case of long-term injury. Rec Sport students will leave via bus for their venue during lunch each Monday. They will return in time for the end of the normal school day, at 2.45pm.

House Sport:
House sports that will be offered for 2015 are as follows:
- Table Tennis - Cost is $5.00 per term.
- School Gym - Cost is $5.00 per term.
- Volleyball - Free.
- Basketball - Free.
- Netball - Free.
- Boys Soccer - Free.
- Girls Soccer - Free.
- Boys Oz Tag - Free.
Sport 2015

Girls Oz Tag - Free.
Cricket - Free.
Power Walking - Free.

At the end of lunch, House Sport students will meet in top quad for sports roll call, then head to their appropriate venue with their teacher as a group. Again, note there is no cost associated with the majority of House Sport choices.

General information:
For both Rec and House Sport, students will be expected to wear their full sports uniform to school on the day. Those students who are not in full sports uniform will attend sports detention for the afternoon. Please note that a change of clothes is not permitted – full school sports uniform must be worn by every student. There are no exceptions to this rule.
In the event of wet weather or extreme heat, House Sport groups will go to wet weather rooms for the afternoon. Rec Sport will go ahead regardless of weather conditions as they are all indoor venues.

Kind Regards
Mr. N. Kelava
RTHS Sports Organiser

CAPA Report

Year 9 Visual Arts & Photography classes at the Art Gallery of NSW this term to see the Pop to Popism exhibition
### Robert Townson High School - Sports Calendar 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Week</th>
<th>Term 1</th>
<th>Term 2</th>
<th>Term 3</th>
<th>Term 4</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>No Sport - Sport Selection (Monday 2nd of February)</td>
<td>No Sport - Anzac Day (Monday 27th of April)</td>
<td>Round 1 of Sport (Monday 20th of July)</td>
<td>Round 1 of Sport (Monday 12th of October)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Round 1 of Sport (Monday 9th of February)</td>
<td>Round 1 of Sport (Monday 4th of May)</td>
<td>Round 2 of Sport (Monday 27th of July)</td>
<td>Round 2 of Sport (Monday 19th of October)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Round 2 of Sport (Monday 16th of February)</td>
<td>Round 2 of Sport (Monday 11th of May)</td>
<td>Round 3 of Sport (Monday 3rd of August)</td>
<td>Round 3 of Sport (Monday 26th of October)</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Round 3 of Sport (Monday 23rd of February)</td>
<td>Round 3 of Sport (Monday 18th of May)</td>
<td>Round 4 of Sport (Monday 10th of August)</td>
<td>Round 4 of Sport (Monday 2nd of November)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Round 4 of Sport (Monday 2nd of March)</td>
<td>Round 4 of Sport (Monday 25th of May)</td>
<td>Round 5 of Sport (Monday 17th of August)</td>
<td>Round 5 of Sport (Monday 9th of November)</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Round 5 of Sport (Monday 9th of March)</td>
<td>Round 5 of Sport (Monday 1st of June)</td>
<td>Round 6 of Sport (Monday 24th of August)</td>
<td>Round 6 of Sport (Monday 16th of November)</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Round 6 of Sport (Monday 16th of March)</td>
<td>No Sport - Queen’s Birthday (Monday 8th of April)</td>
<td>Round 7 of Sport (Monday 31st of August)</td>
<td>Round 7 of Sport (Monday 23rd of November)</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Round 7 of Sport (Monday 23rd of March)</td>
<td>Round 6 of Sport (Monday 15th of June)</td>
<td>Round 8 of Sport (Monday 7th of September)</td>
<td>Round 8 of Sport (Monday 30th of November)</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Round 8 of Sport (Monday 30th of March)</td>
<td>Round 7 of Sport (Monday 22nd of June)</td>
<td>Round 9 of Sport (Monday 14th of September)</td>
<td>Round 9 of Sport (Monday 7th of December)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>8 Rounds of Sport</strong></td>
<td><strong>7 Rounds of Sport</strong></td>
<td><strong>9 Rounds of Sport</strong></td>
<td><strong>9 Rounds of Sport</strong></td>
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### Recreational Sports Cost for 2015

The total cost specified per term includes both venue cost and bus transportation.

Note that ‘public holidays’ & ‘pupil free days’ have been factored into the price per term. (Refer to Sports Calendar 2015)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term 1</th>
<th>Term 2</th>
<th>Term 3</th>
<th>Term 4</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ice Skating (Jnr)</td>
<td>Ice Skating (Snr)</td>
<td>Ice Skating (Jnr)</td>
<td>Ice Skating (Snr)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TenPin Bowling (Snr)</td>
<td>TenPin Bowling (Jnr)</td>
<td>TenPin Bowling (Snr)</td>
<td>TenPin Bowling (Jnr)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indoor Skating</td>
<td>Indoor Skating</td>
<td>Indoor Skating</td>
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<td>Indoor Soccer</td>
<td>Indoor Soccer</td>
<td>Indoor Soccer</td>
<td>Indoor Soccer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Laser Skirmish (Jnr)</td>
<td>Laser Skirmish (Snr)</td>
<td>Laser Skirmish (Jnr)</td>
<td>Laser Skirmish (Snr)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flip Out (Snr)</td>
<td>Flip Out (Jnr)</td>
<td>Flip Out (Snr)</td>
<td>Flip Out (Jnr)</td>
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</tbody>
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Belvoir Theatre Scriptwriting Workshop

In Week 9, Year 11 Drama students participated in a free workshop run by Belvoir Theatre and talented playwright Kit Brookman. Students learnt about how to approach writing an engaging script for performance, experimenting with elements such as character and place. Students were captivated by Kit's workshop where he shared many of his own experiences as a playwright, including on the show *Nora* which Year 11 Drama students watched earlier this year.

We would like to thank Kit and Simone from Belvoir Theatre for joining us at Robert Townson and sharing their passion for theatre with our enthusiastic students. We would also like to thank Belvoir Theatre for the ongoing support of Robert Townson and the many theatrical opportunities we have been offered this year, which have helped to inspire and motivate our students. Congratulations to all students involved who once again represented our School with pride and maturity.

Junior Drama Ensemble Auditions—2015

We will be running a Junior Drama Ensemble in 2015 which will run at lunchtimes during each school term. This is an extracurricular Drama group for students in Years 7-10 to develop performance skills and perform in various competitions and festivals including the Regional Drama Festival and the Riverside Theatre playwriting competition. Lots of fun awaits! Interested students should see Mrs Townsend for more information and make sure they attend auditions in Week 2 of next Term.
Public Schools NSW Drama Festival

Congratulations to our Year 11 Drama students who participated in the 2014 Public Schools NSW Drama Festival held at NIDA Kensington. Their playbuilt piece titled ‘Buy It. Sell It. Love It’ was a dynamic, physical performance showcasing the talented students at Robert Townson HS. Well done!

Emilia Bulloch
Rayhan Haffar
Sandy Barrett
Keira Hickey
Renee Connor
Bailey Dymitriw
Ashley Brown
Celina Touma

Luka Blayden
Victoria Foster
Emma Cotter
Drew Cotter
Amy Cefai
Jessica Fryer
Corinne Campbell
Lara Zugna

Courtney Borg
Monique Alguerno
Amberly Moers
Melanie Walton
Aden Brown

Year 10 Play Night

Year 10 Drama performed ‘The House of Bernada Alba’ by Frederico Garcia Lorca (translated by Tony Kline) for their annual performance night. This was a challenging, long play and the class were absolutely outstanding in both the day and night performance. It was remarkable to watch such mature, dedicated performances on the night and every single cast and crew member is to be commended for their efforts.

Students were involved in a lengthy rehearsal process, assisting with directing and production roles. Hours spent learning lines, rehearsing key scenes and refining their stage movement proved to be exhausting, yet all cast members rose to the challenge and performed with skill on the night.

We would like to thank all family, friends and staff who attended the performance on the night. Your ongoing support of Creative and Performing Arts programs is well appreciated by our talented students here at Robert Townson HS.

Mrs E Townsend
The Senior Leaders and the SRC organised a special fundraising event on Wednesday 26\textsuperscript{th} November. The leaders took responsibility for ordering food, advertising the event, selling raffle tickets and coordinating the cooking and serving of sausage sandwiches at a school barbeque. The winner of the raffle was Melanie Walton in Year 11. She received a signed 2014 Wests Tigers Jersey. The school community must be congratulated for their support of this event as it helped raise just over $420 for the Kmart Christmas Appeal. Well done to all the Senior Leaders and SRC members involved for their hard work and dedication.

Mr Kapitanow & Mrs Griffiths  
Senior Leaders & SRC Co-ordinators

Last week Senior Leaders and members of the SRC attended one of the most prestigious events of the year in Homebush: The National Young Leaders Day. The event pulled a crowd of over 1000 teachers and students across the state and included speakers ranging from Olympians to CEO's, social media experts and everyday men and women. Their inspiring stories and motivational words touched all those in attendance. Meeting other schools, involving ourselves in Q&A and being educated on life lessons are only a sample of the incredible memories all the Senior Leaders and SRC members got to experience; we cannot wait for next year's!
Year 8
This term during November all Year 8 students participated in ESSA (Essential Secondary Science Assessment test). This test is mandatory for all Year 8 students in NSW government schools. Students were required to complete the test online using the schools laptops. The test consists of a range of questions and uses a range of multimedia formats to engage the students. I would like to thank Mrs Sandhu (in science) for her excellent organization which ensured the smooth running of the test. A letter which includes your child’s test results will be sent sometime early next year.

On another note for Year 8, all of the students this term did a unit of work based on plants. One of the experiments conducted was the dissection of flowers. Our students learnt about the different parts of the flower and had to identify the male and female sections of the flower. The photos show our students at work dissecting flowers and looking at them under the microscope.

The dissection of a sheep kidney to observe the features was one of the first-hand investigations done by biology students in the topic ‘maintaining a balance’. The photos on the left showed our school captain Luke Blayden and senior leader, Aden Brown performing their first-hand investigation.

Term 4 also saw two of our science teachers involved with HSC marking in both Chemistry and Biology. Our staff fulfill roles such as Senior Markers and Judge Markers for the respective HSC subjects.

Mr Sakic HT Science
We’ve had a hectic year in the HSIE faculty this year, busily preparing for the implementation of the history National Curriculum in years 8 and 10. Thus far our hardworking staff have successfully completed the first two rounds of year 7 and 9 National Curriculum units, while working on next year’s programs. The work won’t stop next year, as our elective history subject *Mysteries and Disasters* is set to be redeveloped in line with the new National Curriculum. Work will also begin on the new Geography syllabi for years 7 and 9 and a new commerce course is under development for 2015. Busy times ahead!

Here are some of the highlights from Term for in 2014.

**Remembrance Day Ceremony**

At 11 a.m., on the 11th of November, 1918 the guns fell silent on the Western Front. World War One had finally come to an end with the signing of an armistice between the Allies and Germany. We remember this great moment in history every year at Robert Townson High School with a Remembrance Day ceremony.

School Captains Luke Blayden and Caitlin Ramondetta reading the Ode of Remembrance

Senior Leaders Webb Neggo and Baily Dymitriw lowering the flag to half mast.

**Mysteries and Disasters IMAX Excursion**

On the 1st of December, 30 of our elective history students attended IMAX cinema in Darling Harbour. The students were treated to *Egypt 3D* – a documentary film about mummification in ancient Egypt.

The HSIE faculty wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and happy new year.
See you back in 2015.
Mr Olm
The Christmas holidays are here again and it is a great time to catch up with your reading. The school library has a great variety of new books for students to borrow and we have a variety of both fiction and non-fiction to suit everyone. Students who are keen readers can borrow more than the usual limit for the holidays so they can have enough reading to last the five weeks. If there is a particular series that you haven’t finished or you would like to find a new series to read now is the time to come into the library and have a look at the collection. All books will be due back on the first day of next term.
It has been a busy year for our class this year. We have completed and participated in a number of enrichment activities. At the beginning of the year, as part of our unit of work- “Growth & Development”, we designed and created our very own growth charts. During term 2, we spent our double period on a Thursday morning at the local preschool, entertaining and interacting with the children. We had a wonderful time and made lots of little friends. Throughout the duration of term 3, our class hand sewed our own teddy bear shaped baby blankets. In term 4, we embarked on a journey to the Wildlife Park in Sydney and Sydney Aquarium at Darling Harbour. The purpose of this excursion was to identify places in which you could take your children that are both interesting and educational. It was a remarkable day. Overall, it has been an unforgettable and adventurous experience for our class this year and it has been a pleasure working with you all and Mrs Stamoudis!

-Natalie Bromley
Around the School